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TENSION RELAXED

Czar Declares That All Danger
of a Conflict With Japan
Has Passed.

THE TAKIO NEWS DIFFERENT

There It Is Stated That Russia
Is Sending More Troops
to Manchuria.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Jan. 18.—The Czar, in receiving the ministers in state at Tsarskoe-Selo, on Sunday, declared, says the Daily Mail's St. Petersburg correspondent, that all danger of a conflict was now ended. All the special cablegrams from St. Petersburg published in this morning's papers confirm the belief that the tension has been greatly relaxed; but, according to the correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald, there is a strong feeling in official quarters in St. Petersburg against the representatives of both Great Britain and the United States.

The special cablegrams from Tokio, on the other hand, still reflect the bellicose feeling of the Japanese press and people and suspicion of the Russian assurances. The Standard's Tokio correspondent says that another conference of the Elder Statesmen is about to be summoned. The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent reports the arrival in Manchuria by railway of four more Russian regiments, and thinks that Russia intends to wait until she has three hundred thousand men available.

PEACEFUL CHORUS.

In Russia It Is Thought Any
Rupture Will Be Due to Japan.

(By Associated Press.)
ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 18.—The Czar's assurance, given at the winter palace January 14th, on the occasion of the New Year's reception, that he desired and intended to do all in his power to maintain peace in the Far East, is regarded by the foreign diplomats as a hostage given to the world for the preservation of a peace, while the guarantee that Russia will recognize the open ports and other concessions in Manchuria will, it is thought, place the onus of a rupture on Japan. Most of the newspapers here join in the peaceful chorus, one paper remarking, however, that it was strange for Russians to first hear of the Czar's words by way of America.

There is a strong indication that, through the Czar's personal acts, the peace party is completely in the ascendant. M. Bezobrazoff, the head of the war party, has gone abroad. Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, who from the beginning has favored peace, is now completely rehabilitated, and Viceroy Alexieff has been made subservient to the Foreign Office in the Russo-Japanese negotiations. His extensive powers are curtailed, and he can make no move without the Czar's personal approval.

In fact, the fresh assurances conveyed through Ambassador Cassini to the authorities at Washington of the recognition of the rights acquired by the Chinese treaty is largely attributed to Count Lamsdorff's influence. Diplomatic circles regard Count Lamsdorff's conduct of the negotiations under the Czar's direction as a very hopeful sign. Another strong influence on the side of peace has been

(the attitude of M. Witte, president of the Council of State, who has been bending his energies to avoid a conflict.

WAR IMPROBABLE.

Would be Disastrous to Both
Countries and Not Decisive.

(By Associated Press.)
ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 18.—The Associated Press correspondent, on high authority, is able to give the following as the present status of the negotiations between Russia and Japan:
"Russia recognizes Japan's predominance in Korea, and Japan recognizes Russia's special position in Manchuria. There are two main questions still at issue—the Russian demand for a neutral zone on the Korean side of the Yalu River, which Japan met with a proposal for a similar neutral strip on the Manchurian side. Japan also asks for certain guarantees covering Manchuria, which Russia thus far has declined to grant. It is pointed out, however, that the assurances given a few days ago by Russia regarding open ports in Manchuria and respect for treaty rights, is a concession on this point."
That the two countries are not so far apart may be fairly inferred from the following statement made by Mr. Kurino, the Japanese minister to the Associated Press correspondent:
"War now would only be disastrous to both countries. Owing to the geographical situation, an armed conflict would result in a great drain of the men and treasure of both Japan and Russia, without being decisive. Besides, I believe it would not be worth while to believe to war on the questions still in dispute."

CLOSING ACCOUNTS.

Japanese Banks Are Stopping
Business in Manchuria.

(By Associated Press.)
PORT ARTHUR, Jan. 18.—The Japanese banks are rapidly closing up their accounts in Manchuria and are stopping business.
Japan is seeking for agents in Manchuria and Korea to supply the government with information of the Russian movements, in view of the hurried departure of the Japanese residents.
The Russian occupation of Sin-Min-Tun, thirty miles west of Mukden, is now reported to be an accomplished fact.

VIRGINIA BRIEFS.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Jan. 18.—The Law and Order League of Greene county, perhaps the only organization of its kind in Virginia, met Saturday in the courthouse at Staunton and elected officers for the ensuing term, as follows: Rev. Robt. White, Jr., of the Episcopal Church, president; Rev. Ernest P. Hall, of the Methodist Church, vice-president; Dr. E. W. Sims, secretary; Dr. E. D. Davis, treasurer. Executive committee—Lynwood Mitchell, Dr. George B. Jennings and Dr. D. Davis.

FARMVILLE, Va.—The Farmville Dispensary is doing a flourishing business. Reports the arrival in Manchuria by railway of four more Russian regiments, and thinks that Russia intends to wait until she has three hundred thousand men available.

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SSS FOR THE BLOOD

The best known and most popular blood purifier and tonic on the market to-day is S. S. S. There is hardly a man, woman or child in America who has not heard of "S. S. S. for the blood." It is a standard remedy, a specific for all blood troubles and unequalled as a general tonic and appetizer. S. S. S. is guaranteed purely vegetable, the herbs and roots of which it is composed are selected for their alternative and tonic properties, making it the ideal remedy for all blood and skin diseases, as it not only purifies, enriches and invigorates the blood, but at the same time tones up the tired nerves and gives strength and vigor to the entire system.

For Chronic Sores and Ulcers, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Blood Poison, Malaria, Anemia, Scrofula, Eczema, Psoriasis, Salt Rheum, Tetters, Acne and such other diseases as are due to a polluted or impoverished condition of the blood, nothing acts so promptly and effectually as S. S. S. It counteracts and eradicates the germs and poisons; cleanses the system of all unhealthy accumulations and soon restores the patient to health. Write us and our physicians will give you a case prompt attention without charge.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

STILL ILL IN MANCHESTER

No Material Change in the Condition of Judge Hancock.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Meeting May be Held This Week—Grand Jury Cases.

Judge Hancock's condition last night was reported by his physician, Dr. T. P. Mathews, as unchanged. He is still in a semi-conscious condition, and may live for several days. There are slight chances of his recovery, all hope having been abandoned several days ago.

There was not a quorum present at the last meeting of the Board of Aldermen, and the members of that body are expecting a special call for one night this week. This body has a lot of routine business to transact. The Finance Committee will meet this week to begin work on the budget. It is said by members of Council that the appropriations for the Streets and Lands and Building Committees will be of some importance this year.

It is the feeling in Council that one of the most important things for them to do is to raise revenue for the city by increasing the value of property by improving the streets. This will be done, and it is believed that at least \$10,000 will be appropriated this year for permanent street improvements.

The Lands and Buildings Committee want to erect a new City Hall. The money for this purpose will have to come through the Finance Committee, and it is probable that a portion of it will be appropriated this year.

The Finance Committee will probably devote some money for raising money to erect a new school building. This will have to be done by a bond issue. This question has not been fully discussed, but will probably be at an early date.

GOOD SKATING.

Forest Hill is the Mecca for many skaters. The lake at that resort is in splendid shape for skating, and gay parties grace the spot day and night.

BILLS OF INDICTMENT.

The grand jury in the Corporation Court yesterday returned two true bills of indictment—one against Richard Patterson, colored, for shooting Richard Dixon three times in the back with a revolver; and the other against Dixon, who is now in jail, for the murder of the midwinter tourist season. This elegant train makes the trip from New York to St. Augustine in just 72 hours.

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SUPERVISORS MEET.

At the meeting of the county supervisors at Chesterfield, Courthouse, yesterday, the two new members, Messrs. Joseph Middendorf and W. S. DuVal, were sworn in. Commonwealth's Attorney Gregory is preparing a paper to present to the court urging the board to compel the Passenger and Power Company to make further improvements along the line of the Turnpike.

SILVER TEA.

The West End Angels will take part in the entertainment at the silver tea to be given in the Central Church parlor, to-night. The young man and woman will be for the benefit of the church, and it is hoped there will be a large attendance.

SERMON TO VETERANS.

The members of Joseph E. Johnston Camp, C. V., heard a fine sermon by Rev. B. M. Chandler, at Central Methodist Church Sunday night on the subject, "A Good Soldier for Jesus Christ." His topic was based upon the examples of Christian endurance and fortitude displayed by General Lee and his staff of generals, several of whom have just passed away. This discourse was a splendid one, and was heartily enjoyed by the veterans and others who heard it.

PERSONAL AND BRIEFS.

Mrs. John L. Martin, of Holly Springs, is very ill of Berkeley White, colored, for the murder of his uncle at a church fair will begin at Chesterfield Courthouse Thursday.

DR. SMITH UNITES HAPPY COUPLE

Dr. W. R. L. Smith proved himself very accommodating to a young couple last night. About 8 o'clock his door bell rang, and upon going to the door the doctor found Mr. H. C. Sturtevant and Miss Persimmon. The young man showed a duly made out marriage license and the young lady gave every evidence of her willingness. Dr. Smith cordially invited them into his parlor, and in the presence of members of his family performed that ever interesting miracle of making the two one.

THE CLAUSE SAVES THEM

Strike Exemption Held by Judge Waddill to Relieve Fuel Company From Contract.

DECISION BY JUDGE WADDILL

He Sets Aside Verdict That Has Been Rendered in Favor of S. H. Cottrell & Sons.

Judge Waddill yesterday made public his opinion setting aside the verdict of the jury in the case of S. H. Cottrell & Sons vs. the Smokeless Fuel Company, as contrary to the law and the evidence. The basis on which Judge Waddill takes this action is that the jury in reaching a verdict for the plaintiff took no account, or certainly not sufficient account of the strike clause in the contract, on which the case turned.

The Smokeless Fuel Company made a contract with S. H. Cottrell & Son, wherein it agreed to furnish to the latter firm 3,000 tons of coal, with the proviso that strike conditions did not prevent the delivery of the coal. The great coal mine strike came on and the company was unable to fill its contract thereafter. The strike clause of the contract provided that the delivery of the coal in execution of the agreement was subject to strikes, accidents, interruption to transportation and other causes beyond control of the company contracting.

It seems that the company delivered but 500 tons under the contract, before the coal strike paralyzed mining and coal transportation. The firm sued for breach of contract and got a verdict for \$3,246.25, the sum being based upon the amount Cottrell & Co. would have realized on the coal as profit had it been delivered as per contract.

Judge Waddill held that the strike clause saved the Smokeless Fuel Company from responsibility for failure to deliver the coal. The verdict is, therefore, set aside and a new trial ordered. Judge Waddill is expected to hand down a decision in the injunction case of the Weems Steamboat Company vs. the People's Steamship Company, argued in this court some months ago. An opinion will be delivered in a few days.

ABOUT RAILROADS AND RAILROAD MEN

Mr. W. O. Sydnor, of Staunton, division freight agent of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, with headquarters at Staunton, is in the city on business for a day. He is at Murphy's Hotel. Mr. Sydnor has been the chief engineer of the company in the traffic department. The greater frequency of the visits of traffic representatives of the various railway systems of the West and Middle West to this city is indicative of the air caused among these roads by the location of the Rock Island-Frisco system. Mr. Saunders and Mr. Eggleston are now about ready to open their office at No. 115 E. Main. The simultaneous appearance here of many high representatives of Western through lines is indicative of regular plans for the location of the Rock Island-Frisco system in locating a general agency in this city for both freight and passenger traffic. While there is no authoritative statement to that effect, it is recognized in railway circles that the Rock Island is naturally going to get the lion's share of business from the location, unless the other through lines follow the example set by that system.

The first trip of the Southern Railway's luxurious through train, known as the Palm Limited, was made from New York to Florida last Monday, and the first northbound trip of this famous train was from St. Augustine, Fla., January 13th. Since then these trains have been operating regularly, and the winter season, the remainder of the midwinter tourist season. This elegant train makes the trip from New York to St. Augustine in just 72 hours.

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AT THE THEATRES.

"Why Suffer ?"

With that mean, dull, feeling about the head; constant sneezing; pains through the eyes; running at the nose; a man or woman or child who is afflicted with a severe cold, when you have at hand one of the most effective, yet harmless cures on the market.

FULLY GUARANTEED. NEVER FAILS.

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Price, 25c Price.

At all druggists. By mail post-paid.

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All standard makes sold, exchanged, repaired, and rented. We have a large stock of new and used typewriters. We also have a large stock of typewriter ribbons, ink, and other accessories. Write us for a catalogue and prices.

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BEAUTY depends so much upon what you do that it is practically within reach of every woman. In her really great series of papers, "The Fountain of Youth," Doctor Grace Peckham Murray shows plainly how beauty is the result of a woman's care of herself. She tells you just what is to be done to the hair, teeth, eyes, complexion and hands to make even a plain woman attractive. All of her suggestions



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has become the smartest dressmaker of the best dressed set in the world. She is no mere dressmaker—she is a creator of styles. She knows how to tell what she knows, and she tells it in The Delineator. What she writes is in addition to seventy new designs by The Delineator's own staff. She tells this month, as it has never been told before, the real secret of the new skirt, just how long and how full it should be, and how it should hang. She also tells about the famous "trotter" skirt.

The True Love of Music is so intense that it follows the great songsters into their intimate, daily home lives. The second of the prima donna series treats of CALVE, who of the world's great singers probably has the most interesting personality. No woman who knows of CALVE can fail to be interested in this story of her life.

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and see how many things there are in it which help to make a woman's entire life worth while. You will then know why it is the most necessary magazine for women.

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FOURQUEAN, TEMPLE & CO.

HANNA SLATE HAVE DELEGATES IN FIELD

Said That Senator Foraker Will Head "Administration Slate" for Delegate at Large.

(By Associated Press.)
CINCINNATI, Jan. 18.—Official announcement to-night by George B. Cox, Republican leader in Hamilton county, that he is a candidate for delegate at large from Ohio to the Republican National Convention at Chicago next June caused much excitement among those who believe that Mr. Cox favors Hanna's nomination. On a so-called "Hanna slate" for delegates at large, are said to be Mr. Cox, Governor Herrick, former Governor Nash and Congressman Dick. It is said that Senator Foraker will name four others for delegates at large in opposition to Herrick, Nash, Cox and Dick, and that what is known as the "administration slate" will be headed by Senator Foraker.

AT THE THEATRES.

"The Show Girl" is the best musical production that has ever been seen on the Bijou stage. This is saying a great deal, but the assertion is justified by the excellent performance, which was witnessed at that playhouse last evening, when an old-time first night audience filled the theatre to its utmost capacity.

There is everything about "The Show Girl" to prove entertaining. The girls themselves are most pleasing to look upon, and they appear every other time in a new and striking costume. Then there is the music, which has that swing about it that catches the audience's ear and keeps it to its rhythm. There was a lively patter of feet during some of the numbers.

Stella Mayhew is just a round, plump, smiling piece of jolly, good humor. She seems to be in the thing just for the fun of it. When she shows her front teeth the audience smiles; when she laughs, the audience does likewise. There is no resisting her boisterous countenance. When it comes to singing a song, she is a smaller edition of May Irwin, though built somewhat on the same plan.

Sam. J. Mylle, as Dionysius Fly, was a clever comedian, and got from the part all that it offered. Harlow R. Hight was great in his make up. There were brunettes and blondes of every type, and some of them were worthy of their positions in the "front rank."

The entire production was excellent, and the better pleased audience has seldom witnessed a performance at the Bijou than that which assembled there last night.

The most romantic play, "A Prince of Castles" (a tale of old New York), written by Sidney H. Ellis, with Al. H. Wilson as the author, is now being presented at the Academy to-night. Mr. Wilson is an actor of ability. He is favored with a fine stage presence and a magnetic manner. He also possesses the gift of a singing voice of power and sweetness which is so well described by Mr. George C. Goodale, the celebrated dramatic critic of the Detroit Free Press. Mr. Goodale writes: "He sings ballads with rare feeling and his voice has that sympathetic quality that is above, beyond and wholly out of the reach of art."

Commencing January 18th, 1904, and to Continue for Two Weeks.

The Greatest Reduction Sale in Clothing and Hats Ever Known in This City.

Men's Suits, former price \$28.00, now.....\$19.75
Men's Suits, former price \$24.00, now.....\$17.75
Men's Suits, former price \$21.00, now.....\$13.75
Men's Suits, former price \$19.00, now.....\$11.75
Men's Suits, former price \$15.00, now.....\$10.25
Men's Suits, former price \$10.00, now.....\$7.25
Men's Suits, former price \$8.00, now.....\$4.25
Men's Suits, former price \$6.00, now.....\$3.50

A great reduction in odd Pants.
Men's Soft Hats, former price \$1.25 to \$2.00, now.....\$1.00
Men's Stiff Hats, former price \$1.25 to \$2.00, now.....\$1.00

J. H. BUSBY, 00 Broad St.

OUR STORES SAVE YOU MONEY. BEST QUALITY GROCERIES

4 Cans Salmon, per case.....25c
Best American Granulated Sugar, pound.....4 1/2c
Fresh Country Eggs, dozen.....28c
3 pounds California Peaches for.....25c
New Seeded Raisins, 1 lb package.....10c
Home-Made Mince Meat, pound.....6c
Mountain Roll Butter, lb.....15c
Small California Hams, pound.....15c
2 pounds New Hominy and Grits for.....5c
6 lb White A Sugar for.....25c
Witch Hazel Soap, three for.....10c
Large Juicy Lemons, dozen.....12c
Best City Meal, per peck.....18c
Or, bushel.....85c
Quar. Mason Jar Vanilla Syrup.....10c
Best Cream Cheese, pound.....10c
Canned Tomatoes, large cans.....7c
New Clipped Herring, 3 dozen for.....25c
Good Lard, pound.....10c
Whole Sweet Potatoes, per bushel.....10c
Gibson, XXXX, Mt. Vernon, Clear Pepper Old Brand Whiskey, bottle, 75c.
3-lb Jars Home-Made Preserves.....15c
Blackberry or Catawba Wine, quart, 12c.
New Dates, per 5 lb box.....25c
Salt Pork, per pound.....10c
Smithfield Hams, pound.....15c
Blackening and Scrub Brushes.....5c
8-lb Octagon Shaped Soap for.....25c
Good Green or Java Tea, pound.....10c
Best Virginia Buckwheat, 7 lbs. for.....25c
Canned Sugar Corn.....15c
Florida Oranges, dozen.....15c
Best Leaf Lard, pound.....10c
Duffy's Malt Whiskey, per bottle.....80c

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Uptown Store, 505 East Main Street
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LADIES' DELIGHT.
BLANKS' VELVETEEN LOTION.
It softens the skin, heals and prevents chaps. There is no toilet so soothing. It gives life and beauty to the skin. Price 10c. Sold by reliable druggists.